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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 23 | Humidity 58% Partly Cloudy | Sensex 79,454 | Nifty 24,008 | Gold 96,535 | Silver 96,748 | Dollar 85.42 | Euro 96.08 | GBP 113.61

WATER CHECK

Water board to analyse groundwater quality in districts with lakes receiving treated water to improve groundwater table

PAGE 5

PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Cybersecurity experts are now out with all steps you need to follow to ensure you have a secure life online

PAGE 10

Union representatives reveal 15-20 autos going missing each month in city; and what is more, many stolen vehicles are preferred getaway mode for thieves, burglars

GRAND THEFT AUTO

'No need to park, attracts little attention'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"People are using the stolen autos to commit theft. It's a clever tactic because an auto blends in easily in most neighbourhoods

—Police official

The modus operandi of vehicle thieves in the city is getting more audacious it would seem. From targeting parked vehicles and hotwiring two-wheelers, some miscreants are now using stealing autos as getaway vehicles to commit thefts and even steal other vehicles.

According to Manjunath, president of an auto union, "Earlier, thieves would steal tyres or small parts from autos, but now, around 15 to 20 autos go missing every month. There is a chance of recovery if they are still in the city but often they go missing completely — and when found, they are usually located outside the city."

A spokesperson from the auto union explained, "Autos parked near the owner's residence are generally safe, but those left outside bars or by careless individuals often go missing. The issue is that many auto thefts are shared on Facebook or other social media platforms but are not reported to the police.

In some cases, if autos go missing, then there are two or even three vehicles that have gone missing from the same area. We've observed that drivers who rent autos are less likely to be involved in thefts, as their focus is on earning a livelihood to support themselves and their families. Those who do steal autos often use them for committing other crimes and then abandon them. That's how many stolen autos have been recovered."

In a recent case, thieves arrived in an auto-rickshaw without a number plate, to flee with a scooter parked in front of a house in Nelamangala.

The incident, captured on camera, is now circulating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

Free trade 'agreement'

Why is BBMP not able to recover over ₹170 crore in market rents?

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Despite daily transactions running into crores of rupees in its bustling markets, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to collect rent dues from over 6,000 shops it owns. With arrears exceeding ₹170 crore, public outrage is mounting as questions arise over the civic body's reluctance to act against defaulters — a situation reportedly worsened by political interference, legal disputes, and administrative apathy.

BBMP operates 123 major markets including KR Market, Russell Market, Jayanagar Market, Madivala, and PUB Market, which house thousands of shops. However, a significant number of these tenants either pay minimal rent or have defaulted entirely for years. Officials have failed to revise rents or initiate strong recovery measures.

Influence at play

Sources said that many of the markets are under the de facto control of local politicians and leaders of various associations, making it difficult for BBMP officers to enforce rent collection or initiate legal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Puppet workshop

Experience a fun-filled storytelling workshop where kids turn scrap into creative puppets! Guided by actress and puppeteer Padmavati Rao, children will build their own characters and present them in a final showcase. **Where: Museum of Art & Photography; When: May 19 – May 24**

02 Summer fun

Meet your favourite Cartoon Network and Discovery Kids characters like Johnny Bravo, Titoo, and Ekans at Orion Malls across Bengaluru. **Where: Orion Mall; When: Till May 11**

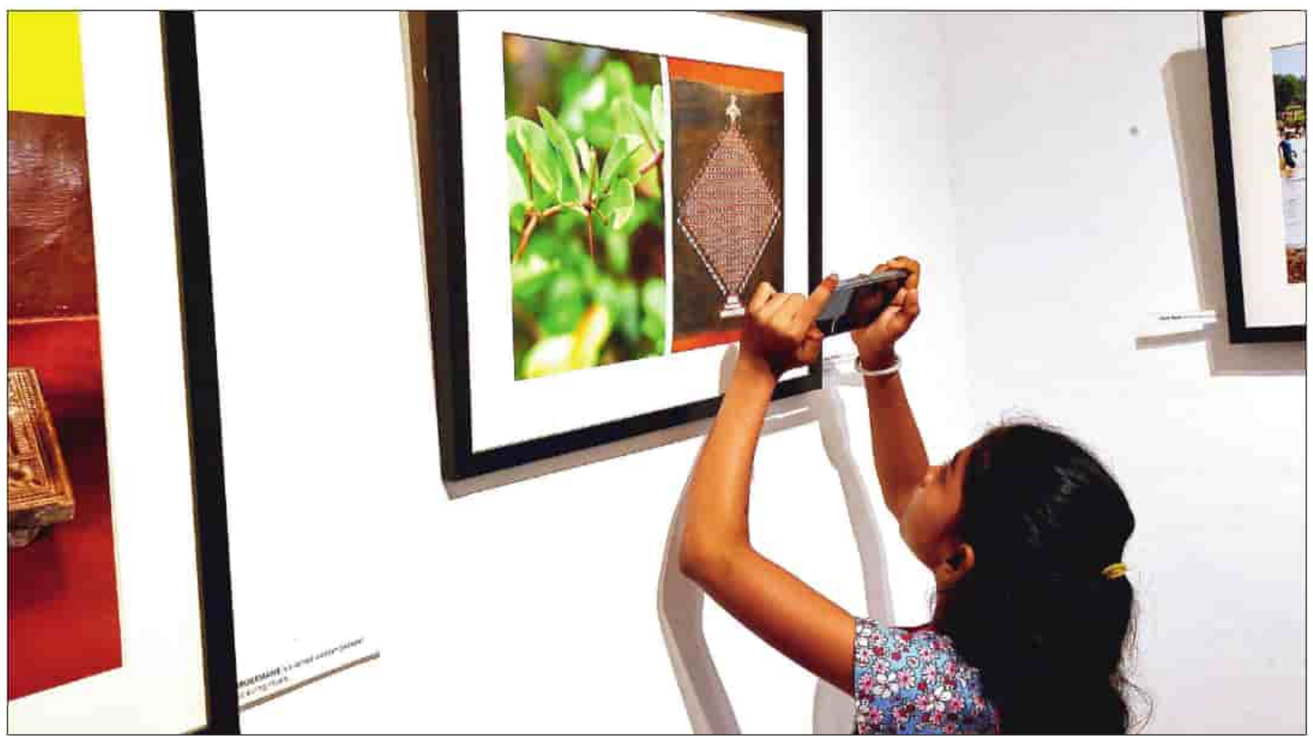
03 Clay date

Celebrate Mother's Day with a special duo pottery workshop at Ugaoo — create memories and clay masterpieces together in a cozy, hands-on session. **Where: Ugaoo, Koregaon Park; When: May 11 | Sessions at 11 am–1 pm & 4 pm–6 pm**

UTSAV Ananta 2025 kicks off

BMS College of Engineering (BMSCE) launched its annual techno-cultural festival, UTSAV ANANTA 2025, on May 9. The inauguration featured actors Daali Dhananjaya, Sanjana Anand, and singer Ananya Bhat as chief guests, with Dr B S Ragini Narayan and Aviram Sharma as Guests of Honor. The event was presided over by the Principal, Vice Principal (Admin), and Vice Principal (Academic).

The theme, "Ananta," drawn from Sanskrit, focused on creative and open expression. The Student Core Committee welcomed faculty, alumni, sponsors, and student participants from various institutions across India. The festival featured events in music, dance, theatre, literature, and technology. Highlights included the UTSAV competition, a DJ Night, and the Whiplash Concert. **— BMB**



Art is divine

A book was launched on Deevara Chittara, by Center for Revival of Indigenous Art, on Saturday in Bengaluru. A visitor clicks photos during an exhibition at the launch of the book that features Chittara the indigenous folk art from Malenadu

K'taka enforces roster-based admissions

Reservation norms and quota ratios to be strictly followed across government, aided, and private colleges

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The Department of School Education has initiated strict enforcement of the roster system for pre-university (PU) college admissions, ensuring that it is no longer a mere formality on paper. As per the latest government directive, admissions to government, aided, and private PU colleges must strictly follow the reservation policy and maintain the mandated ratio between government and management quotas.

A PU department official stated, "The roster system is aimed at promoting social equity and enabling students from economically weaker sections to access education in private institutions by paying only the government-prescribed fees. Colleges—especially aided and private—are prohibited from collecting any additional charges from students admitted under the government quota."

Government PU colleges are required to offer admissions based on category-wise reservations, including provisions for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), persons with disabilities, and children of ex-servicemen. Aided and private colleges must also comply with these reservation norms while strictly adhering to roster-based admissions. In aided colleges, 64% of seats fall under the government quota and 16% under the management quota. In private colleges, the split is 50% each between the government and management quotas. In cases of excess applications, merit (based on marks) will determine selection.

> **"Roster-based admissions are mandatory for PU colleges** – Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education

All private colleges are required to comply with these norms

To support students from socially and economically disadvantaged communities, the government has issued clear guidelines for First PUC admissions based on academic merit and reservation criteria. All private colleges are required to comply with these norms. Non-compliance will result in punitive action. "Roster-based admissions are mandatory for PU colleges. Admissions to First PUC must strictly follow the set guidelines. Violations will result in denial of admission approvals," said Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education.

A senior education department official added, "Colleges must upload student data through the SCATS login. If no student applies from a particular reserved category, that seat cannot be transferred to students from other categories. Additionally, all applications must be logged through SATS; failure to do so will lead to denial of admission approval at the district level."

ADVERTORIAL

Join the Walkathon on May 18: A Day of Fitness, Fun, and Giving Back in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, get ready for a day of fitness, fun, and purpose! On May 18, 2025, o9 Solutions, in collaboration with 93.5 RED FM, is hosting a city-wide Walkathon at St. Joseph's Indian Institute, opposite Kanteerava Stadium. Open to all, the event invites participants to walk for health, joy, and a cause.

Step Forward, Give back!

Walkathon is more than just a walk; it's a celebration of fitness, community, and togetherness. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking for a fun morning out, you can choose from 10km, 5km, or 3km walk categories designed for all ages and fitness levels. The day will kick off with an energetic Zumba warm-up session, led by professional instructors by Fit Community, setting the tone for an unforgettable morning. "This isn't just about walking — it's about community, celebration, and making a difference," said Siddhartha Niyogi, CEO of o9 Solutions – India, for the event. "We're proud to collaborate with 93.5 Red FM to make this an inclusive and impactful event."

B Surendar – Director & COO Red FM Network said "Taking up socially relevant, responsible initiatives is a core part of Red FM as a brand. In this post-covid era, a scaled up initiative of this nature serves multiple objectives viz. promoting health and fitness, community engagement and social welfare at large. We are pleased to partner with o9 solutions on this and are quite sure people in Bengaluru would lap it up,"

From fitness buffs to families, the Walkathon is designed for everyone. Participants will receive a T-shirt, finisher's medal, certificate, and a delicious breakfast post-walk and medical professionals, including doctors & physiotherapists, will be on-site to ensure safety.

The Walkathon will feature Olympian Anju Bobby George, former national champion Reeth Abraham, and Joint Commissioner of Traffic M.N. Anucheth, who will flag off the event.

Additionally, 10% of registration fee and Rs.500 per finisher will be donated to Make A Difference (MAD), supporting children in need.

"The Walkathon is a beautiful reminder that small steps can lead to big change. At 93.5 Red FM, we believe in empowering communities through action. It's heartening to see Bengaluru come together for health, happiness, and a meaningful cause. We look forward to walking alongside every participant on this inspiring journey" Said by Mr Suresh Ganesan- General Manager-Karnataka 93,5 Red FM

Registrations are open on BookMyShow, Townscript, and District by Zomato.

Walk. Celebrate. Make a difference. Sign up now and join us on May 18 for an event you won't want to miss! **— BMB**

Tap, scan, go: BMTC launches smart ticketing across fleet

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As digital payments gain momentum among Bengaluru's bus commuters, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is moving towards a more commuter-friendly travel experience with Smart Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) rollout across its entire fleet.

This initiative follows a steady increase in the adoption of contactless payments, particularly through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), since BMTC introduced static UPI QR codes in about 75% of its buses in January 2024. Digital transactions now contribute to nearly 20% of BMTC's daily ticketing revenue, which stands at approximately ₹160 lakh per day.

To further streamline the ticketing process, BMTC has floated a tender to procure Android-based handheld Smart ETMs. These upgraded machines will enable conductors to issue tickets and accept real-time payments via both UPI and the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), eliminating the inconvenience associated with static QR codes.

The Smart ETMs are already in use across BMTC buses, with no separate pilot phase planned. BMTC officials confirmed that the entire fleet will be covered under this rollout. The project is being funded internally, with no separate budget allocation.

Real-time monitoring

These advanced ETMs come equipped with high-resolution touchscreens, in-built thermal printers, and support for QR code scanning and NCMC card swiping. They are also capable of operating offline during network outages, ensuring uninterrupted service. When online, the devices will transmit data in real-time through 5G or Wi-Fi to a central fare collection system, enhancing operational efficiency and live monitoring.

As part of the project, the selected technology provider will also build a comprehensive fare management system. This includes backend ticketing software, live monitoring dashboards, integration with BMTC's Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS), and strict adherence to data security and performance standards.

Conductors, who have already been using smart ETMs for the past three years and regular ETMs for over a decade, are well-acquainted with the technology. Therefore, no fresh training phase is required for this transition. Responding to concerns over cybersecurity and data privacy, a BMTC official stated, "We've had no issues so far. The system is designed to operate securely and reliably, even when offline."

Static QR codes to remain

While the integration of NCMC has been a long-standing demand, especially after the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) enabled it for metro travel, BMTC's move brings city buses in line with modern mobility solutions. A similar system was introduced by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) across its fleet of 8,800 buses in November 2024.

As for a mobile app-based ticketing option, BMTC clarified that the short nature of city bus journeys and high peak-hour volumes make app validation impractical. "To ease commuter experience, we focused on enabling quick digital payments instead," the official added. Static QR codes will remain in use as a backup, ensuring payment flexibility for all passengers.

With Smart ETMs now fully functional and further improvements on the horizon, BMTC is paving the way for a more efficient and digitised public transport system in Bengaluru.

House ransacked, gold missing

Burglars broke into a house in SSF Layout under the jurisdiction of the Yelahanka Newtown police station and stole gold and diamond jewellery worth `50 lakh. The theft came to light on May 9 when the homeowner returned from a trip and found the valuables missing.

According to police, the house belonged to Durujaswal, who had locked it and left for a vacation to Kerala and Mysore on May 5. Upon his return, he discovered that the iron grill at the back of the house had been cut open using a gas cutter and the house ransacked. In his complaint, Durujaswal stated that approximately 350 grams of gold and diamond ornaments were missing from the premises. Police registered a case and launched an investigation. **BMB**

Minor accident, major scuffle

A businessman was assaulted and robbed of his car and valuables following a scuffle, leading to a case being registered at Cubbon Park police station against a woman identified as Deepti Katragadda and others.

The complaint, filed by Vinay Gowda, a resident of East Gand Apartment on Lavelle Road, alleges that the incident took place in the early hours of May 3. Gowda claims that while reversing his Porsche car, it accidentally hit Deepti's vehicle, triggering an argument. "Following the scuffle, one of Deepti's friends attacked me," he alleged.

According to Gowda, the attackers then fled with his Porsche worth ₹56 lakh, ₹1.5 lakh in cash, a mobile phone, designer sunglasses worth ₹85,000, and other valuables. He further stated that Deepti allegedly demanded ₹20 lakh to return the car and the phone. **BMB**

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Toyota Kirloskar Motors Hosts Grand Hilux Customer Meet in Bengaluru

Bengaluru witnessed a power-packed weekend as Toyota Kirloskar Motors hosted a Hilux Customer Meet on May 10 and 11 at the Tribal Adventure Café, Bangalore.

A grandeur Customer Meet was centered around the prospects and owners of Toyota Hilux, who were present in large numbers. The star of the event was a Toyota Hilux Black Edition. This beauty with muscle is a fully loaded top of the line off-roading vehicle, and it is surely ready to conquer any road or terrain.

Around 200 Toyota Hilux customers attended the event who experienced extreme 4X4 Off roading drive of Hilux and lauded the amazing performance of Hilux at any terrain.

Toyota Hilux is an ideal 4x4 vehicle which caters to large enthusiasts of Off-roading and at this customer event, many of the owners shared their unique experiences of the Toyota Hilux.

This event also served as a strong connection between Toyota and its customers. Understanding the customer's taste and preferences has always been Toyota's edge and such platforms offer a deeper insight into customer's perspectives.

The event showcased at the event was Toyota Hilux Black Edition, which was quite eagerly awaited for, by a lot of 4x4 enthusiasts. The bold & captivating new variant of the popular lifestyle vehicle received much appreciation and crowds thronged to have a glimpse of this Black Beauty.

With this new variant, Toyota offers a more aggressive and refined take on the Hilux, aiming to appeal to enthusiasts looking for a tougher, more stylish version of the vehicle.

TOYOTA

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Tusker electrocuted, CESCOM faces FIR

Wildlife activists demand strict action after another elephant dies due to electrocution

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A young tusker died of electrocution on Saturday morning in a village in the Sakleshpur taluk of Hassan district, marking the second such incident in Karnataka within a month. The elephant, aged between 25 to 30 years, reportedly came into contact with an energized guy wire from an illegal solar fence.

According to the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), the fence was negligently maintained by the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESCOM). The same live wire had electrocuted a cow at the same location just three days earlier.

"A cow was also electrocuted at the same spot three days ago. CESCOM was alerted and even visited the site, but the wire remained exposed and improperly insulated. The elephant tragically came into contact with it," said Yedukondaly V, Conservator of Forests, Hassan district.

Following the incident, an FIR has been registered against CESCOM for dereliction of duty. Forest officials confirmed that the illegal fencing was electrified from a nearby power connection. The tusker's death is the latest in a growing list of electrocution-related fatalities affecting wildlife in Karnataka.

This is the second elephant death due to electrocution in less than a month. On April 8, a 35-year-old elephant in Chikkamagaluru district was electrocuted after touching low-hanging transmission wires.

Low-hanging electrical lines have often proven to be lethal to wild elephants in Karnataka

> **"A cow was also electrocuted at the same spot three days ago. CESCOM was alerted and even visited the site, but the wire remained exposed and improperly insulated**
>
> –Yedukondaly V, Conservator of Forests, Hassan district

"We have repeatedly notified CESCOM about hazardous power lines in sensitive zones. While our Elephant Task Force regularly monitors the area for sagging lines and illegal connections, technical corrections must come from the electricity department," Yedukondaly added.

Wildlife conservationists have voiced strong criticism of CESCOM's failure to act, despite prior warnings.

"It's frustrating and deeply disappointing. CESCOM officials were informed about the dangerous setup, yet failed to take any action," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board for Wildlife member and founder of United Conservation Movement.

Conservationists argue that the rising number of elephant electrocutions will continue unless there is strict accountability. "Only when responsible officials from electricity and forest departments face disciplinary action will there be real change," said a wildlife activist.

The Karnataka High Court, acknowledging the seriousness of the issue, directed the state government and forest department on May 6 to form area-wise committees to map sagging power lines and illegal fencing across the state. The order came in response to a suo-motu petition taken up in June last year following a report published in Bangalore Mirror.

Between 2023 and 2025, Karnataka has reported 25 elephant electrocution deaths, highlighting an urgent need for systemic reform and coordination between departments.

Getaway on three wheels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

widely on social media, but no complaint has yet been registered.

In another case, JP Nagar Police have arrested a man in connection with the theft of an autorickshaw parked outside a residence in Shakambari Nagar on April 11. The stolen auto rickshaw, valued at ₹1 lakh, was recovered. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime.

According to police officials, this is not an isolated case. "Now, people are using the stolen autos to commit theft. It's a clever tactic because an auto blends in easily in most neighbourhoods," said a senior officer.

Autos are also being used to commit house burglaries as became evident in recent cases Bommanahalli. Police cracked three cases involving two women who used an auto-rickshaw to target vacant homes. On March 18, a resident reported theft of gold and cash, leading to the arrest of Nilofer and Shabreen Taj near Adugodi on April 2. In a separate case, two men were arrested for stealing gold from a Kaveri Nagar home.

Auto unions have been circulating guidelines across auto stands to report suspicious activity or frequent night hires

According to police officials, the shift in pattern came to light when the arrest accused confessed to using shared autos to scout targets during the day and return at night to steal. Their justification? An auto, unlike a van or other vehicle, attracts little attention and doesn't require parking allowing for quick exits.

"Many builders prioritise maximising land use for rental housing, often overlooking the need for proper parking spaces. Consequently, residents are forced to leave their vehicles on the streets, increasing the risk of theft. Most of these incidents occur in residential neighbourhoods, with nearly 90% of thefts happening when vehicles are parked outside homes or near paying guest accommodations."

"We can't control any theft or any such crimes so we've been circulating guidelines across auto stands to report suspicious activity or frequent night hires. We have asked them to stay cautious, we keep posting advisory on social media platforms," said Manjunath.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda too has often stressed on the need for citizens to be vigilant. "Vehicle theft is not just a financial loss but a serious safety issue, as stolen vehicles are often used in crimes, so citizens are urged to park in secure, well-lit areas, and use anti-theft devices like GPS trackers and steering locks," he has said.

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9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Sewage blockage
Upparpet

Sewage water has flooded the road, causing a week-long delay. The affected route runs from Upparpet Police Station to Balepet, Kilari Road, and a temple.

Garbage pileup
Pulakeshinagar

Garbage dumped along Shivaji Road in Pulakeshinagar is causing foul smells and health concerns. Residents are urging swift cleanup by authorities.

Pole hazard
Sivananda circle

An unused high mast light pole at Sivananda Circle has been slightly tilted for years, posing a serious risk to nearby buildings and the public, especially during heavy rains.

Groundwater quality check for districts using treated water

In vegetable-growing districts like Kolar, water quality impacts food safety

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The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has decided to carry out an analysis of groundwater quality in Karnataka in districts with lakes receiving treated water to improve the groundwater table.

The impact assessment of this tank-filling scheme using treated water will be conducted in Kolar, Bellary, and Chikkaballapur. In Kolar, the study will cover 639.58 square kilometres, while 1,244.22 square kilometres in Bellary and 792.97 square kilometres in Chikkaballapur will be analysed.

This initiative falls under the National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM 2.0). The CGWB has also announced that similar studies will be taken up in capital cities of all states that have not been covered previously. A total of 25 such studies are planned for this year across India, bringing the overall number of groundwater studies to 42.

Several water bodies in these districts are being replenished with treated wastewater as part of a state government initiative aimed at improving groundwater recharge. However, concerns have been raised over the potential long-term effects of using secondary-treated water.

Experts have repeatedly stressed the need for detailed assessments on how treated water impacts groundwater quality and food safety, especially when used for growing vegetables and other crops. In and around Kolar, farmers have reportedly increased the use of insecticides in recent years.

A 2023 study by the Environmental Management Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) examined 400 samples of 10 vegetables from the Bengaluru region. The findings revealed the presence of heavy metals like nickel, lead, cadmium, and iron beyond the permissible limits set by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Water bodies in three districts being replenished with treated wastewater

> **The impact assessment of this tank filling scheme by treated water will be conducted in Kolar, Bellary, and Chikkaballapur**
>
> –Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

In response, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo motu cognizance of the issue and directed a comprehensive analysis of vegetables sold in Bengaluru.

To follow up on this directive, a Joint Committee formed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) visited Bengaluru for field surveys. The committee included representatives from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal, and the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru.

Server glitches hit caste census

The ongoing caste census across Karnataka, which began on May 5, is grappling with major server issues, raising concerns over whether the survey can be completed within the scheduled timeline.

Directed by the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission, the survey aims to collect data on sub-castes within Scheduled Castes and is expected to continue until May 17. However, persistent server failures have severely hampered progress, especially in rural areas, for the past three days.

Enumerators, primarily schoolteachers, report that they are able to cover only five to ten households per day. Each home must answer more than 40 questions, verify Aadhaar details, and upload information in a process that takes about an hour under normal conditions. When servers are down, the process can stretch to nearly two hours per household.

Several teachers say they are struggling to fill out the online forms, leading to further delays. Community leaders have urged the government to urgently resolve technical glitches and assign more enumerators, particularly in areas with large Scheduled Caste populations.

Officials now face increasing pressure to ensure the survey is completed without compromising data quality. –BMB

Karnataka braces for rainy week

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Bengaluru has forecast significant rainfall across Karnataka in the coming days, starting from today, May 10, to May 16. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has shared an update in this regard.

Dr N Puviarasan, Scientist 'F' and Head of the Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru, said Karnataka will experience partly cloudy skies, light rain, and thundershowers over the next 48 hours, with wind speeds between 30-40 kmph. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to hover around 33°C and 22°C, respectively.

Light to moderate rain, thundershowers, and gusty winds are likely across coastal, north interior, and south interior Karnataka until May 16. A north-south trough from Marathwada to the Gulf of Mannar, passing through interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, is contributing to the weather activity. IMD has predicted partly cloudy skies, light rain, and thundershowers with gusty winds over the next 24 hours.

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Indulgent breakfast to make mom on Mother's Day

Cooking for your mom on Mother's Day is probably the Best Gift Ever for a lot of moms. Sure, we're delighted to get flowers, or a lovely box of chocolate, or a new power drill, but what we really want is to be taken care of for one single, blessed day. Just kidding, we know you love us. Now cook something to prove it.

A chill brunchy breakfast is a great way to go. And, by the way, it doesn't have to be in bed. In fact, having balanced a toddler, a mug of hot coffee and a plate of eggs on my lap while lying in bed in years past, I can say that's challenging, even when charming.

The smell of French toast cooking up on the stove should make a morning person out of anyone. There are few breakfasts that feel as indulgent, but it couldn't be easier to make!

In some parts of the world, French toast is called "eggy toast," "Bombay toast," "gypsy toast" and "poor nights of Windsor." In France, it is actually called "pain perdu," which means "lost bread," as the bread is dunked into an eggy custard to soak for a while. Besides, the name French toast probably has nothing to do with France — the most reasonable story is that a man named Joseph French invented it.

Whatever you call it, it's a fan favorite.

Challah is far and away my favorite bread to use for making French toast. The bread is made with eggs, so it is richer than plain white loaves, and the middle becomes almost custardy in texture when it is soaked in a milk and egg mixture and griddled up on a pan.

Brioche is another egg-based bread that is a great choice. And you can definitely use a plain Pullman loaf, a firm white bread, if you like – just make sure your slices are nice and thick.

Use bread that is a bit on the dry side, meaning it needs to be a few days old. When I have a fresh challah, I simply slice it 3/4-inch thick and leave the slices on the counter for about 24 hours to dry out a bit. Flip them sometime in the middle of the day so both sides have a chance to air dry. Or put them on a wire rack, and then you can just let them dry without having to flip them.

And it should be said that French toast leftovers heat up nicely in the microwave, so make a few extra pieces for later in the week.

- Mix the custard batter thoroughly so you don't get patches of just egg or milk.
- Use a heavy skillet if possible, which holds heat more evenly. Cast iron is perfect, regular or enameled.

–AP

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

CHLOROPHYLL-FREE SURVIVAL

Our reader shares an intriguing insight from a school science project on plant survival without chlorophyll. "We discovered that such plants thrive not through lush green leaves, but through parasitism or photosynthesis via their stems. Beauty, it seems, isn't always a survival trait," they write, reflecting on nature's unexpected strategies.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **S Sampathkumari**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Chimpanzees drum with a regular rhythm on tree trunks, a new study reveals, suggesting that the roots of rhythmic communication may stretch back to a common ancestor shared with humans around six million years ago.

Researchers analysed 371 instances of chimp drumming and found that the primates play with distinct and consistent patterns using buttress roots of rainforest trees as instruments to create sounds that travel over a kilometre. Each chimpanzee has an individual drumming signature, which may serve as a form of long-distance social communication, such as indicating location or direction of travel.

Drumming styles also differ by region: western chimps prefer steady beats, while eastern chimps vary intervals. According to co-author Cat Hobaiter, drumming is "a way of socially checking in." The chimps are also selective about which roots they use, choosing those that best transmit sound.

In related research, scientists found chimps can combine vocal calls to form new meanings such as merging rest and play calls to invite others to nest nearby highlighting the complexity of their communication system. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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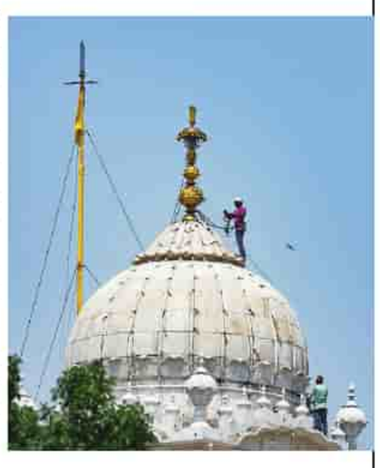
Government debunks claims of India attacking Nankana Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan

The Government of India, through its Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check Unit, has firmly rejected a series of false and misleading claims circulating on social media and some digital platforms, including fake reports about a drone attack on the revered Nankana Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan and the alleged destruction of the Udhampur air base in Jammu and Kashmir. A video widely shared online alleged that India had launched a drone strike on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism. Dismissing the claim, the PIB Fact Check Unit categorically stated, "This claim is completely fake." Officials emphasized that the video was intended to incite communal tension and provoke unrest in the country.

Another viral misinformation campaign claimed that the Udhampur air base had been destroyed by Pakistan. The video, aired by a platform called "AIK News" on live television, was labeled as entirely false by the Indian government. The PIB confirmed that the Udhampur air base remains fully operational, refuting any claims of damage. The government also noted a coordinated disinformation campaign originating mainly from Pakistani media and social media circles. These campaigns, some of which are gaining traction in Indian digital spaces, have been described as a form of psychological warfare aimed at spreading panic, confusion, and communal discord among Indian citizens.

Other fabricated claims that the government has dismissed include reports of an Indian Air Force pilot ejecting in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and a woman pilot being captured. These, too, have been deemed false with no basis in fact.

Additionally, rumors about a cyberattack from Pakistan disabling India's power grid, and the closure of the Mumbai-Delhi airline route, were called out as fake news. While there has been a temporary closure of 25 segments of Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes within Delhi and Mumbai flight information regions, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) clarified that this was purely due to operational reasons and not related to any hostile action. A widely circulated video showing young men crying was also misrepresented as depicting Indian soldiers in distress. The video was actually from a private defence coaching centre where students became emotional after being selected for recruitment into the Indian Army. The clip was originally uploaded on Instagram on April 27 and was not related to the military.



The PIB Fact Check Unit further debunked reports from foreign media about 10 explosions near Srinagar airport and similar claims near Jaipur airport. Terming these assertions as "completely fake," a government official urged the public to rely only on official sources for credible information.

In addition, viral videos claiming that Indian Army posts were destroyed were also refuted. The PIB confirmed that the video being shared is dated back to November 15, 2020, and has no connection with any recent military operations, including Operation Sindoor.

In the past three days alone, the PIB Fact Check Unit has exposed over 20 viral videos that were spreading misinformation. The government reiterated its commitment to counter fake news and urged citizens to verify information from official channels before sharing or believing sensational claims on social media. – PTI

BWSSB rolls out ₹85-cr water push for Karanth Layout

Massive BDA project to tap Cauvery Stage VI water, aiming to fast-track civic works across 17 Bengaluru villages

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is gearing up to implement water supply infrastructure works worth ₹84.84 crore in Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout, which is currently being developed by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

Spanning over 3,546 acres and 12 guntas, this is BDA's second-largest layout. Of this, around 2,782 acres have been earmarked for the creation of approximately 30,000 residential plots across nine sectors. The BDA has allocated nearly ₹1,800 crore for the overall development and has engaged multiple contractors to expedite work across sectors.

According to BDA officials, nearly 10,000 of the estimated 16,000 to 17,000 plots are likely to be allotted to the general public, at a rate of ₹4,900 per square foot. The layout also includes over 4,000 corner sites.

To ensure steady water supply, BWSSB plans to tap into the Cauvery Stage VI project, which is designed to bring 500 million litres per day (MLD) of water from the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir to Bengaluru and its outskirts. A detailed project report (DPR) has already been submitted and is currently under government review. Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout are expected to benefit from this initiative.

Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout is currently being developed by the Bangalore Development Authority

While the BDA had initially aimed to complete the layout development by April-end, progress has been uneven. Some sectors have achieved up to 85% completion,

Nearly 10,000 of around 16,000 to 17,000 plots are likely to be allotted to the public, at a rate of Rs 4,900 per square foot

while others remain at around 30%. Work is ongoing on key civic infrastructure including roads, underground drainage, electric poles, and water pipelines. Contractors have now been directed to complete the remaining works within the next three months.

Additionally, LED street lighting and other electrical works worth ₹53 crore are underway. The layout comprises land from 17 villages, including Ganigarahalli, Kaalathammanahalli, Lakshmipura, and Veerasagara. In March, BWSSB floated tenders worth ₹34.84 crore for the construction of ground-level reservoirs, feeder mains, and overhead tanks.

Pakistan backs down as India sets ceasefire terms

US urges Pakistan to de-escalate after India's precision strikes under Operation Sindoor; India asserts control, setting terms for ceasefire from position of strength

The decisive retaliatory strikes undertaken by the Indian Armed Forces under Operation Sindoor over the last few days, which underscored the country's growing military prowess, played a significant role in both India and Pakistan announcing a ceasefire late Saturday afternoon, that sources said has been reached firmly on New Delhi's terms.

The cessation of hostilities was implemented at 5 pm on Saturday, hours after India demolished eight Pakistani air bases, eliminated over 100 terrorists, and inflicted damage on Pakistan's terror infrastructure and military support assets.

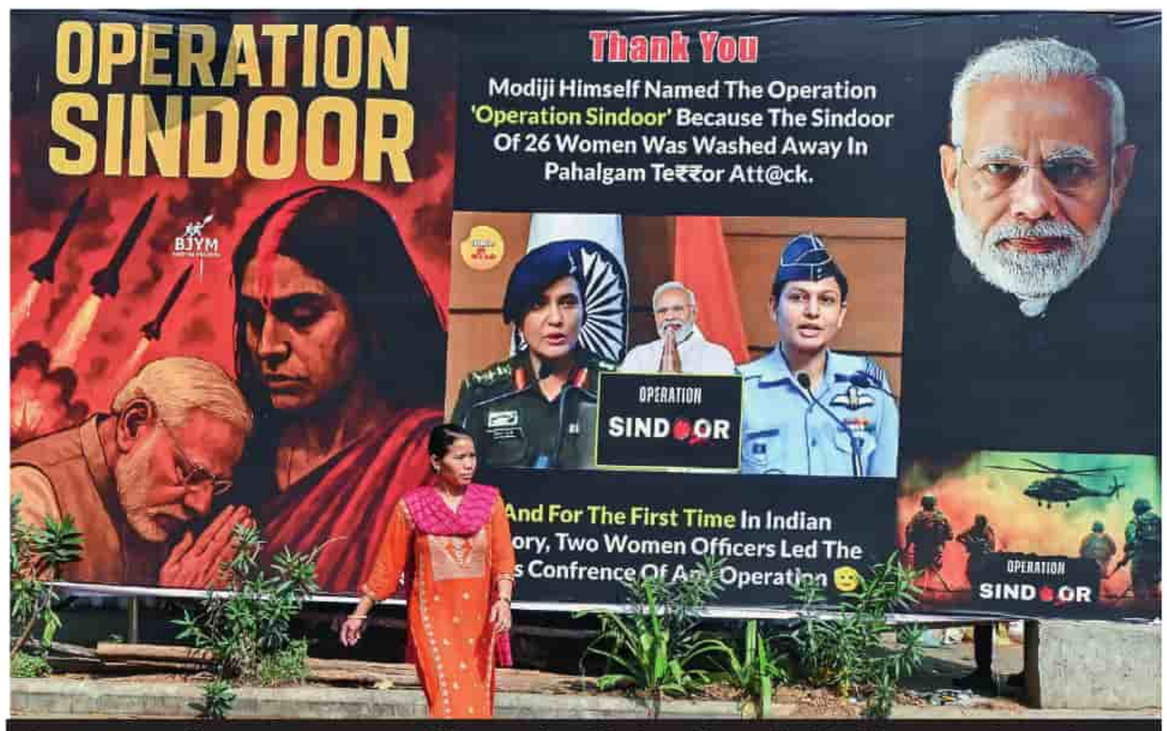
Crucially, the ceasefire came not through a negotiated settlement or involvement of any third party, but after Pakistan found itself incapable of sustaining further escalation, say sources.

"Over the last few days, as we have all seen, Pakistan has suffered very heavy and unsustainable losses after it has given us an unprovoked attack on our installations. It has suffered losses both on land and in the air. There has been extensive damage to the crucial Pakistani air bases like Skardu, Sargodha, Jacobabad and Bholari. In addition, a loss of AD weapon systems and radars made the defence of Pakistani airspace untenable," said Wing Commander Vyomika Singh.

The outreach from Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) to his Indian counterpart was a direct consequence of India's show of force and resolve. New Delhi's doctrinal shift — declaring that any future act of terror will be treated as an "act of war" — redefined the framework of engagement as it was formally acknowledged by Washington and left Pakistan with virtually no options.

It has also been made clear that the current announcement, reached without any preconditions, only relates to stoppage of all firing and military action, thus not affecting at all New Delhi's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the closure of Attari Integrated Check Post in Punjab or the cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistani nationals.

India agreed to cease hostilities only after securing a position of dominance. The understanding, reached through a direct DGMO-level conversation, applies strictly to halting military action across land, air, and sea. No broader dialogue or issue was tabled or agreed to in the initial engagement, and no political-level talks were part of this specific ceasefire mechanism, sources detailed.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OPERATION SINDOOR
And For The First Time In Indian
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s Confrence Of An Operation
OPERATION SINDOOR

A woman walks past a poster of 'Operation Sindoor' installed in Ulsoor on Saturday

However, diplomatic engagement on the global stage was not absent. In a notable development, US Secretary of State and Vice President Vance revealed that Washington had held intensive discussions with senior officials on both sides, including External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, and Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir. The US confirmed that it had encouraged restraint and, significantly, applied pressure on Pakistan to de-escalate.

EAM Jaishankar said, "India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so". **PTI**

Vigilance increased on sleeper cells

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has directed all District Police Chiefs in the state to monitor activities related to sleeper cells linked to terrorism and other covert activities. Dr Parameshwara stated, "There has been no new advisory or alert from the central government, but we have always instructed district police chiefs to remain vigilant."

He emphasised the importance of gathering accurate intelligence on sleeper cells. "If sleeper cells are found in Bengaluru, we have instructed the authorities to detect them and share information with central investigative agencies," he added. The Minister also assured that adequate security has already been provided to critical infrastructure such as dams, large industries, reputed institutions, and power plants. "We are not sure whether terrorists have targeted these places or not. However, we have taken precautionary measures, and I have instructed the authorities to intensify surveillance," he said.

Circular urges alertness in sensitive areas

The Intelligence Department has issued a circular urging heightened vigilance across the state, particularly in public spaces and sensitive areas. The alert comes in response to the ongoing "Operation Sindoor" by Indian forces against insurgents, which has led to increased instability in the region. Authorities have been instructed to enhance security in critical zones and to ensure readiness by conducting regular drills. The circular emphasises the importance of maintaining the functionality of existing surveillance systems, such as CCTV cameras, and ensuring they are operational at all times. The alert highlights the need for monitoring individuals and groups involved in terrorism or extremist activities, including those engaged in preparing detonators or inciting unrest through speeches and social media platforms.

From weddings to war zones: K'taka soldiers rushed back to duty

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Several soldiers from Karnataka who had returned home on leave for family events, including weddings, have been urgently recalled to duty as tensions escalate between India and Pakistan.

With the Indian Armed Forces issuing emergency deployment orders in the wake of a heightened conflict-like atmosphere, jawans from Kalaburagi, Gadag, and Uttara Kannada districts are cutting short their leave and heading back to their posts. A soldier serving in the CRPF's unit had come home on May 6 for his sister's wedding and to care for his ailing mother. However, upon receiving a sudden call-up order, he boarded a train from Kalaburagi to Hyderabad and then to Srinagar. As he departed, friends garlanded him and wished him well. Overcome with emotion, his family bid him farewell with teary eyes and heartfelt prayers for his safe return.

(File photo) Several soldiers recalled amid Indo-Pak tensions

Emergency recall for BSF jawans

Two other soldiers from Gadag district serving in the Border Security Force (BSF), had returned home on month-long leave. They, too, were summoned back and left for Jammu & Kashmir from Hubballi via special train. A soldier left after consoling his three children, while Sangappa bid an emotional goodbye to his young child and wife.

Interrupted honeymoon

In Uttara Kannada's Siddapur, a soldier who had just married on May 1 and was on honeymoon in Ooty, was forced to cut short his trip and return home. He has now been directed to report in Rajasthan. Another soldier from Siddapur had come home 15 days ago for his niece's wedding. With a year of service remaining, he, too, has been called back and instructed to report to Delhi.

Ceremonial send-off

At Siddapur bus stand, locals, retired army personnel, and family members performed traditional aarthi, offered garlands, and sent the soldiers off with best wishes.

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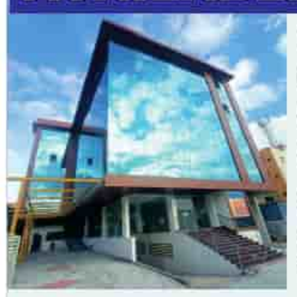

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Praveen S Biradar R/O Flat 435, E Block, SLS Square Apartments, Epip Area, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066 changed my name from Praveen Kumar Siddalingappa Biradar to Praveen S Biradar for all further purposes. (S full form is Siddalingappa)

I, Vishwa Kumar, R/at No. 3-128, Madadoor street, Near Matha, Hunasagi, Yadgir-585224, have changed my name to Vishwakumar Anandswami Hiremath, vide affidavit dt: 09.05.2025 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, Revanth R S/o G Ramsundar R/o No. 20, 1st Floor, Ganga Residency, 6th Temple Road, Malleshwaram, b'lore- 560003 have changed my name to Revanth R Chettiar for all purpose

I, Saradambal.A W/o V. Srinivasan R/a No. 124, 1st Floor, 4th "B" Block, Behind Canara Bank, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, have changed my name to Sarada.S. for all future purposes.

I, Aravind Bapugouda Patil S/O, Bapugouda Patil R/o #102, Kt-36 Apts, 15th Cross, 10th A Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-55 have changed my name to Arvind Patil for all purposes.

I, D K Manjunath S/o D Krishnaiah shetty R/o #64, Ward No 26, Panduranga Temple Street, Chikballapur 562101 have changed my name to D K Manjunatha for all purposes.

I, Syed Sabir Rahmathullah R/o No.14, 4th A Cross, Next to Gautham college backgate, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name as Syed Sabir

Expansion of Greater B'luru Territory on the horizon?

The "Greater Bengaluru" administration will come into effect from May 15, with the BBMP area officially being recognized as the "Greater Bengaluru Area." However, for the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act to be implemented, the BBMP area must be notified as the "Greater Bengaluru Area" by the government. This is crucial for the act's implementation.

The Cabinet on Friday had approved the notification for the BBMP area to be declared as the Greater Bengaluru Area from May 15. Additionally, the expansion of the Greater Bengaluru region has been considered. While the current BBMP area, covering 708 sq km, will be notified as the Greater Bengaluru Area, there is potential for the region to expand in the future as the boundaries are further defined. There have been discussions suggesting that the Greater Bengaluru Area could expand to cover additional regions, indicating that the extension of the Greater Bengaluru area could be imminent. **BMB**

Recovery stuck due to pressure tactics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

action. Sources say shops are often allocated based on influence rather than merit. Officials also reportedly receive phone calls and face political pressure whenever they attempt recovery drives.

Revenue loss

An official said, "BBMP expects an annual income of ₹228 crore from its market properties, yet actual collections are far lower. Only a handful of tenants are paying even the nominal rent, while many others have been doing business for decades without fulfilling rent obligations. Though notices are issued adding penalties and interest on arrears, there has been no effective follow-through or enforcement from the civic body.

Court cases

In 2015–16, BBMP revised the market rent rates, which was opposed by traders who challenged it in court. In 2022, the court ruled in favor of BBMP, ordering tenants to pay arrears under the revised rates. This amounts to ₹5–6 lakh per trader in some cases. Yet, resolution remains pending, and traders claim the confusion over new rates contributes to the growing arrears.

Sources said that BBMP has also shown no urgency in re-allocating shops or implementing new rules to protect its properties. Although officials were instructed to revise rents based on revenue department guidelines and invite tenders for vacant shops, only Cox Town Market has undergone this process so far. Officials say future allocations will be based on higher bidding rates, and rent will vary for air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned shops.

As per BBMP's 2025–26 projections, a total of ₹171.36 crore in rent remains unpaid across 123 markets comprising 6,017 shops. The South Zone tops the list with ₹79.73 crore in outstanding rent from 1,351 shops, followed by the East Zone at ₹52.38 crore from 1,742 shops, and the West Zone at ₹39.23 crore from 2,850 shops. While the expected rent collection for the year stands at ₹28.98 crore overall, the actual dues are far higher. Minor arrears are reported from other zones, including Bommanahalli (₹5.13 lakh), Yelahanka (₹1.24 lakh), RR Nagar (₹2.19 lakh), Dasarahalli (₹2.21 lakh), and Mahadevapura (₹72.6 lakh).

Lack of transparency

Manjappa, a trader, voiced frustration over the situation, pointing to a lack of transparency and enforcement. He said that rent revisions and shop reallocations remain unclear, and political favoritism prevails while traders are left struggling.

SUNDAY READ

Hacker-proofing hacks

Cybersecurity experts list out dos and don'ts in sensitive time

| Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In response to escalating cyber threats, the Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC), in collaboration with National Cyber Security Scholars, has released a new advisory outlining practical cybersecurity measures. The advisory aims to offer actionable best practices to help individuals and organisations prevent attacks and mitigate their impact.

"Given the critical situation the country is facing, it is a matter of immense commitment that our National Cyber Security Scholars have stepped up and volunteered to provide this cyber security advisory," said Group Captain Aanand Naidu Pola (Retd) Executive Director, ISAC. Chetan Anand, National Cybersecurity Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer said the advisory addresses emerging cyber threats targeting individuals, networks, and critical infrastructure. "The public is urged to exercise caution with online information, boost digital hygiene, and prepare for emergencies and protect themselves and families from cyber attacks," he said.

Information verification

The advisory stresses the importance of verifying all information related to the ongoing conflict, especially content that involves the armed forces, terrorist activities, or government advisories. Citizens are warned against blindly trusting WhatsApp forwards, suspicious links, and PDFs circulated through instant messaging apps. "There is a high chance of misinformation and psychological propaganda aimed at causing panic or demoralising the public and armed forces," the advisory states. To combat fake news and disinformation, citizens are encouraged to fact-check before forwarding or sharing any message. Perplexity AI has launched a fact-checking WhatsApp chatbot where users can forward questionable content to +1 (833) 436-3285 for verification.

Install government apps

Additionally, people are urged to install official government apps like NDMA's Sachet https://sachet.ndma.gov.in and MyGov- https://www.mygov.in/ and also diaster warning apps and first responder in advance.

Encrypted communication

Download offline maps from Google Maps to prepare for potential communication outages. In terms of communication and data security, the advisory recommends using encrypted messengers such as Signal, Bridgefy, and CopConnect to ensure private and secure communication, especially during network disruptions.

Secure storage of data

Citizens are also advised to store sensitive documents—such as ID proofs, digital health records, and bank data—on encrypted USB drives or secure cloud services, with strong passwords safeguarding access.

Social media safety

Social media users have been cautioned to avoid engaging with unverified influencers or handles that might spread falsehoods. It is advised to keep handy the social media handles of local police station/ Police commissioner law enforcement to report disruptive posts. Avoid clicking on unfamiliar links or QR codes, and refrain from forwarding and clicking suspicious or unknown links.

Password management

The advisory places particular emphasis on password management, advocating the use of good offline password managers in place such as KeePass or PasswordSafe instead of online alternatives vulnerable to breaches. It recommends using different passwords for each platform and updating them frequently. Employees in government and critical infrastructure sectors have been strongly advised to immediately change their banking and email passwords to minimize damage from potential cyber intrusions.

Mobile device security

Mobile security is another critical area. Users are asked to remove unnecessary and unused apps and content, keep operating systems and apps updated with the latest security patches, Enable access control (fingerprint/PIN/password), and protect their devices with licenced antivirus software. Keep away from the banned apps

Wi-Fi & network security

Users are advised to stay away from free Wi-Fi available in public places. Connect to a corporate network using VPN, if available. Avoid sharing wi-fi or hotspots with strangers.

Conserve device energy

Given the possibility of power and network failures, users are urged to conserve battery by turning off non-essential features like Wi-Fi and hotspot when not in use, using solar chargers or power banks, and limiting social media and streaming usage.

Financial transactions

Citizens are urged to avoid scanning QR codes in unfamiliar places, rely only on official payment apps like BHIM, PhonePe etc with added access controls such as PIN or biometrics, and keep limited cash reserves at home to fall back on during digital disruptions. Use offline banking and UPI options cautiously.-

For emergency preparedness, the public is asked to maintain medical prescriptions, stock essential medications, keep emergency contacts written down, and store health insurance documents. "Citizens should pre-identify safe assembly areas within their communities and practice mindfulness to stay calm and alert," reads the advisory.

Civilians residing near military zones must act responsibly and refrain from sharing any digital content or social media updates related to troop movements.

Cybersecurity researchers and professionals working in critical infrastructure sectors must exercise heightened digital vigilance to safeguard sensitive information.

In case of cybercrime, individuals are advised to report incidents via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (https://cybercrime.gov.in) or call the helpline 1930, apart from visiting their local police station.

> **"The public is urged to exercise caution with online information, boost digital hygiene, and prepare for emergencies and protect themselves and families from cyber attacks**
>
> –Chetan Anand, National Cybersecurity Scholar

Recovery agent held for killing friend during terrace party

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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A 26-year-old recovery agent with a private bank was arrested by the Madiwala police on Saturday for allegedly killing his friend and neighbour during a party on Friday night. The incident occurred on the terrace of their residential building in Venkateshwara Layout, Madiwala.

The victim, Martin Simon, also 26, worked at a private firm and resided on the second floor of the building. The accused, Infant Raj, lived on the ground floor of the same building on 18th A Cross.

According to police, the duo were consuming alcohol on the terrace around 9.30 pm when a heated argument broke out. In a fit of rage, Raj allegedly struck Simon on the head with a brick near the overhead water tank, leading to his death on the spot. After the attack, Raj fled the scene.

Simon's mother, who noticed Raj fleeing the building, went to the terrace and found her son lying in a pool of blood. She immediately informed the police. The body was later sent for post-mortem examination.

Based on the mother's complaint, a case was registered. Raj was arrested on Saturday afternoon and is currently being interrogated. Preliminary investigations suggest that the murder was a result of sudden provocation during the altercation. Police are working to determine the exact motive behind the killing. Further investigations are underway. **BMB**

Man uploads obscene photos of former colleagues

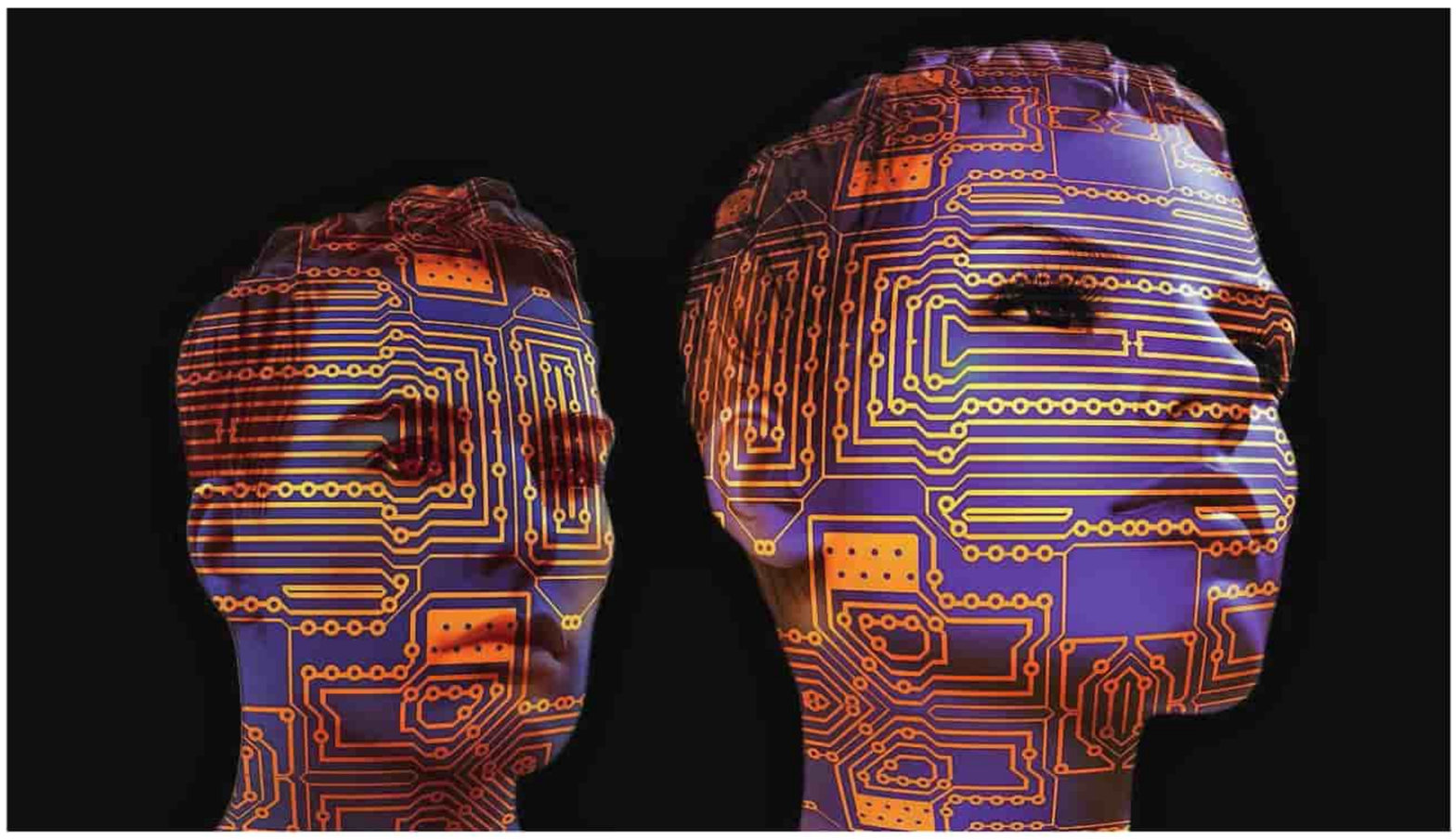
The Banaswadi police arrested a 31-year-old man for allegedly morphing and uploading obscene photos of his former female colleagues on social media earlier this week. The accused, identified as Ashish Monnappa from Madikeri, was staying alone in a rented house in Jakkur while working at a private firm in the city.

According to police, the incident came to light when a female colleague found morphed photos of herself and other women from their previous workplace on a laptop she had lent to Monnappa. The accused had reportedly borrowed the device last year to update his resume after quitting his job in January. When he returned the laptop, he had forgotten to delete the obscene content he had created.

Shocked by the discovery, the woman confronted Monnappa, who fled the scene in panic, leaving behind his mobile phone. She later lodged a complaint with the Banaswadi police. Investigations revealed that Monnappa had collected photographs of several women colleagues and manipulated them using editing tools to create fake nude images. These were allegedly shared on Telegram. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the IT Act and for publishing obscene content and outraging the modesty of women. Monnappa has been remanded to judicial custody. **BMB**

AI TAKES THE COURT

From AI avatars to virtual reality crime scenes, courts are grappling with AI in the justice system



Stacey Wales gripped the lectern, choking back tears as she asked the judge to give the man who shot and killed her brother the maximum possible sentence for manslaughter. What appeared next stunned those in the Phoenix courtroom last week: An AI-generated video with a likeness of her brother, Christopher Pelkey, told the shooter he was forgiven.

The judge said he loved and appreciated the video, then sentenced the shooter to 10.5 years in prison — the maximum sentence and more than what prosecutors sought. Within hours of the hearing on May 1, the defendant's lawyer filed a notice of appeal.

Defense attorney Jason Lamm won't be handling the appeal, but said a higher court will likely be asked to weigh in on whether the judge improperly relied on the AI-generated video when sentencing his client.

Courts across the US have been grappling with how to best handle the increasing presence of artificial intelligence in the courtroom. Even before Pelkey's family used AI to give him a voice for the victim impact portion — believed to be a first in U.S. courts — the Arizona Supreme Court created a committee that researches best AI practices.

In Florida, a judge recently donned a virtual reality headset meant to show the point of view of a defendant who said he was acting in self-defense when he waved a loaded gun at wedding guests. The judge rejected his claim.

And in New York, a man without a lawyer used an AI-generated avatar to argue his case in a lawsuit via video. It took only seconds for the judges to realize that the man addressing them from the video screen wasn't real.

Experts say using AI in courtrooms raises legal and ethical concerns, especially if it's used effectively to sway a judge or jury. And they argue it could have a disproportionate impact on marginalised communities facing prosecution.

"I imagine that will be a contested form of evidence, in part because it could be something that advantages parties that have more resources over parties that don't," said David Evan Harris, an expert on AI deep fakes at UC Berkeley's business school.

AI can be very persuasive, Harris said, and scholars are studying the intersection of the technology and manipulation tactics.

Cynthia Godsoe, a law professor at Brooklyn Law School and a former public defender, said as this technology continues to push the boundaries of traditional legal practices, courts will have to confront questions they have never before had to weigh: Does this AI photograph really match the witness's testimony? Does this video exaggerate the suspect's height, weight, or skin color?

"It's definitely a disturbing trend," she said, "because it could veer even more into fake evidence that maybe people don't figure out is false."

In the Arizona case, the victim's sister told The Associated Press that she did consider the "ethics and morals" of writing a script and using her brother's likeness to give him a voice during the sentencing hearing.

"It was important to us to approach this with ethics and morals and to not use it to say things that Chris wouldn't say or believe," Stacey Wales said.

Victims can give their impact statements in any digital format in Arizona, said victims' rights attorney Jessica Gattuso, who represented the family.

When the video played in the courtroom, Wales said only she and her husband knew about it.

"The goal was to humanize Chris and to reach the judge," Wales said.

After viewing it, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Todd Lang said he "loved the beauty in what Christopher" said in the AI video.

"It also says something about the family," he said.

"Because you told me how angry you were, and you demanded the maximum sentence, and even though that's what you wanted, you allowed Chris to speak from his heart as you saw it." On appeal, the defendant's lawyer said, the judge's comments could be a factor for the sentence to be overturned. **AP**

"Using AI in courtrooms raises legal and ethical concerns, especially if it's used to sway a judge or jury. It may have disproportionate impact on marginalised groups facing prosecution

BITS & BYTES

GOOGLE WILL PAY $1.4B TO SETTLE USERS' DATA USE CLAIMS

Google will pay $1.4 billion to Texas to settle claims the company collected data on users without permission Google will pay $1.4 billion to Texas to settle claims the company collected users' data without permission, the state's attorney general announced Friday.

Attorney General Ken Paxton described the settlement as sending a message to tech companies that he will not allow them to make money off of "selling away our rights and freedoms."

"In Texas, Big Tech is not above the law." Paxton said in a statement. "For years, Google secretly tracked people's movements, private searches, and even their voiceprints and facial geometry through their products and services. I fought back and won."

The agreement settles several claims Texas made against the search giant in 2022 related to geolocation, incognito searches and biometric data. The state argued Google was "unlawfully tracking and collecting users' private data."

Paxton claimed, for example, that Google collected millions of biometric identifiers, including voiceprints and records of face geometry, through such products and services as Google Photos and Google Assistant.

Google spokesperson José Castañeda said the agreement settles an array of "old claims," some of which relate to product policies the company has already changed. **AP**

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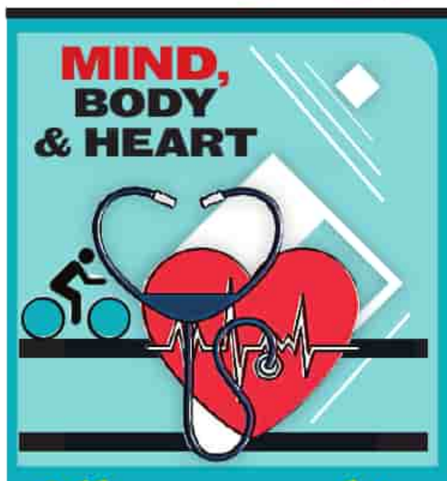

All you need to know about...

Heart rhythm disorder

Related to gum disease
New research shows that the gum disease bacterium P. gingivalis can slip into the bloodstream and infiltrate the heart. There, it quietly drives scar tissue buildup -- distorting the heart's architecture, disrupting electrical signals, and raising the risk of atrial fibrillation (AFib).

Relation with gums
Clinicians have long noticed that people with periodontitis, a common form of gum disease, seem more prone to cardiovascular problems. One recent meta-analysis has linked it to a 30% higher risk of developing AFib, a potentially serious heart rhythm disorder that can lead to stroke, heart failure, and other life-threatening complications.

Harmful bacteria
Globally, AFib cases nearly doubled in under a decade, rising from 33.5 million in 2010 to roughly 60 million by 2019. Now, scientific curiosity is mounting in how gum disease might be contributing to that surge. Researchers have discovered DNA from harmful oral bacteria in heart muscle, valves, and even fatty arterial plaques.
Among them, P. gingivalis has drawn particular scrutiny for its suspected role in a growing list of systemic diseases, including Alzheimer's, diabetes, and certain cancers. It has previously been detected in the brain, liver, and placenta. But how it manages to take hold in the heart has been unclear.

Pathway
This study, published in Circulation, provides the first clear evidence that P. gingivalis in the gums can worm its way into the left atrium in both animal models and humans, pointing to a potential microbial pathway linking periodontitis to AFib.
"The causal relationship between periodontitis and atrial fibrillation is still unknown, but the spread of periodontal bacteria through the bloodstream may connect these conditions," said study first author Shunsuke Miyauchi. **-ANI**

Simply sweet

A few delicious Indian dessert options you can whip up in a jiffy

COCONUT LADDOO

INGREDIENTS:
- Freshly Grated Coconut: 2 coconuts – makes approx. 2 cups
- Sugar: 1 cup
- Cardamom Powder: ½ tsp
- Water: just enough to dissolve the sugar

METHOD:
- Add sugar and water to a pan, cooking on a low flame.
- Stir continuously until the solution begins to thicken, achieving a one-thread consistency.
- Once thickened, add the freshly grated coconut and cardamom powder. Stir well to combine.
- Keep stirring frequently until the mixture turns thick and sticky.
- Turn off the flame and let the mixture cool slightly.
- While still warm, take a spoonful of the mixture and shape it into round balls by pressing it between your palms.
- If the mixture cools down and becomes difficult to shape, return the pan to the flame, warm the mixture slightly, and continue forming the ladoos.
- Now your coconut ladoos are ready to be served!

MANGO PHIRNI

INGREDIENTS:
- Mango Pulp: 1 cup
- Basmati Rice (raw): 4 tbsp
- Milk (full fat): 4 cups
- Condensed Milk: ¾ cup
- Cardamom Powder: 1 tsp
- Saffron Strands: 10–12
- Pistachios: ¼ cup, chopped
- Whole Almonds: ¼ cup, chopped

METHOD:
- In a bowl, add the basmati rice and soak it in water for about 30 minutes.
- Drain the soaked rice and grind it coarsely to a gritty texture. Do not make it too fine.
- In a heavy-bottomed vessel, pour in the full-fat milk and bring it to a boil over medium heat.
- Once the milk has come to a boil, gradually stir in the ground rice. Keep stirring continuously to avoid any lumps. This step is key — gentle whisking works best.
- Add saffron strands to the simmering mixture and stir well. Let the milk absorb the beautiful saffron colour and aroma.
- As the mixture thickens to a porridge-like consistency, add the condensed milk and cardamom powder. Mix thoroughly and let it cook for a few more minutes until the phirni reaches a creamy, thick consistency.
- Turn off the flame and allow the phirni to come to room temperature. Refrigerate it for at least 1 hour to set.
- Once chilled, fold in the mango pulp gently into the set phirni. Add in the chopped almonds and pistachios. Mix everything until well combined.
- Spoon the Kesar Mango Phirni into individual serving bowls or traditional clay pots. Garnish with a few more saffron strands, almonds, and pistachios on top.
- Refrigerate until well chilled and serve cold!

SUJI HALWA

INGREDIENTS:
- Semolina (Sooji): ½ cup
- Ghee: ½ cup
- Sugar: ½ cup
- Cashew nuts: 10–12, chopped
- Almonds: 10–12, thinly sliced
- Black raisins: 12–15
- Golden raisins: 12–15
- Pistachios: 12–15, finely chopped
- Water: 2 cups

METHOD:
- In a heavy-bottomed pan, heat the ghee over medium heat.
- Once hot, add the chopped cashews and sliced almonds. Sauté until they turn golden brown. Remove them and set aside.
- In the same pan, add both black and golden raisins. Stir for a minute or two until they puff up. Take them out and keep them aside.
- Lower the heat slightly and add the semolina (sooji) to the remaining ghee. Roast it gently, stirring frequently to avoid burning. Continue for 10–12 minutes, or until the sooji turns light golden brown and gives off a nutty aroma.
- Carefully pour in the water and stir well to avoid lumps. Let it cook on low heat for 3–4 minutes until the water is absorbed and the sooji softens.
- Add the sugar and continue stirring. Cook for another 3–4 minutes until the sugar melts and the halwa turns slightly brown and glossy.
- Remove from heat. At this point, the halwa will be soft and slightly runny, like a dropping porridge. Let it rest for 5–10 minutes, and it will firm up into a grainy, luscious texture.
- Garnish with the reserved cashews, almonds, raisins and pistachios. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Recipes from The Tastes of India podcast on Audible

TRUE SUCCESS

What the measure of success is, as per Samantha

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has been one of the biggest superstars of Telugu Cinema having delivered blockbusters after blockbusters, she also ventured into Hindi Cinema with shows like The Family Man 2 and Honey Bunny: Citadel. But life has not exactly been smooth for her since the past few years, first starting with her divorce with Naga Chiatanya and later getting diagnosed with autoimmune disease Myositis. But the actress didn't give up and today she is working on multiple things like doing a web series called Rakht Brahmand to now turning producer. She recently released her first film as a producer, Shubham.

In a candid reflection on her journey with Galatta Plus, Samantha shared how her understanding of success has been shaped more by hardships than by her triumphs. She expressed that the greatest lessons were not taught by successes, but by failures and difficult phases and she has dramatically changed as a person thanks to these challenges.

Success came very early to her and she delivered five - six superhits back to back. During that period, she was labelled as the 'golden leg of Telugu cinema'. However, she admitted what she could have learnt in that phase when everything was defined by others' validation. She was made part of a race unknowingly, built around what others expected and perceived as success.

Samantha recalled how she was devastated by her first flop and felt now people would realise that isn't that great as people believed. But in all this she has now found her own definition of success, for her success is now freedom - the freedom to take a two-year break without a film release, the freedom to grow, to evolve, and to determine what success means at her own pace, on her own terms. She also stated that many might not consider her successful given her past standards but for her she had never felt more successful. **–ETimes**

A thriller that falls short of expectations

SUTRADHARI (KANNADA)

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Kiran Kumar R
- **ACTORS** Chandan Shetty, Apurva, Sanjana Anand, Apurva, Tabala Nani, RS Ganesh Narayan, Prashanth Natana, and Sanjay Gowda.
- **Duration** 123 minutes
- **Certification** UA

Kiran Kumar R, who worked as a cinematographer for the movies Veera Chandrahasa and Simharoopini and worked as associate for Damayanthi, is now a director with this movie. He has tried to prove his mettle as an independent director but the result is not up to the mark.

The movie is about Vijay (Chandan Shetty), an under-cover cop, who is not only ruthless in dealing with anti-social elements but also has a soft spot for beautiful women. The Police Commissioner assigns him to a kidnap case. He happens to meet Adhvika (Apurva). Smitten by her beauty, he falls in love with her instantly. All those kidnapped end up killing themselves. He succeeds in nabbing two suspects. Meanwhile, some people kidnap Adhvika. Finally, he comes to know some shocking facts about Adhvika. You have to watch the movie to know who is the mastermind of kidnapping and killing the victims.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Chandan Shetty, who has scored the music apart from playing the lead, fails to live up to the expectations. He is okay with dance sequences but is not suited to play the lead. Navarasan, who bankrolled the movie, plays a key role. Apurva looks good and has acted well in romantic scenes. Among the songs - En Madbeku - is good. Veteran cinematographer PKH Das has done a good job behind the camera.

The movie aimed at youth has no comedy scenes.

It is worth a watch for those who crave crime thrillers.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

Country first, film later

Amid the ongoing escalations between India and Pakistan, actor Harshvardhan Rane, whose film 'Sanam Teri Kasam' received a massive audience response during its re-release in theatres, has now decided to step down from the sequel to the film if the producers go ahead with the same cast.

The actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram on Saturday, and wrote, "While I am grateful for the experience however as things stand, and after reading the direct comments made about my country, I have made a decision to respectfully decline to be a part of 'Sanam Teri Kasam' part 2 if there is any possibility of the previous cast being repeated".

The actor referred to the casting of Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane in the film, and her fans being drawn to the actor's Instagram after the two nuclear armed nations launched escalations.

Earlier, the actor added a new bike to his collection. He took to his Instagram, and shared a video in which he unveiled his dream bike, a custom made Royal Enfield Shotgun 650. **–IANS**

Mikey signs up for first movie after Oscar win

Hollywood actress Mikey Madison has signed her first movie after winning an Oscar for 'Anora'. The 26-year-old actress will co-star with Kirsten Dunst in upcoming thriller 'Reptilia'.

The film will be directed by Alejandro Landes Echavarria, reports 'Female First UK'.

As per, 'The Hollywood Reporter', the movie tells the story of a dental hygienist seduced by a mysterious mermaid into the dark and wet underworld of Florida's exotic animal trade.

Pastel, Imperative Entertainment and AF Films will produce, alongside Landes Echavarrea's via his A STELA CINE banner.

As per 'Female First UK', principal photography will commence later this year. In addition to her Best Actress Oscar for 'Anora', Madison also won a BAFTA for best leading actress and the Independent Spirit Award for best lead performance.

She also earned nominations for a Golden Globe, SAG Award and Critics Choice Award. Meanwhile, it was recently revealed that Mikey was offered a role in the new and untitled 'Star Wars' movie directed by 'Deadpool Wolverine' filmmaker Shawn Levy, but she declined.

The movie is said to be a standalone project that isn't connected with the Skywalker Saga, which concluded with 2019's 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker'. It will star Ryan Gosling and Levy has reportedly been developing the project since late 2022. **–IANS**

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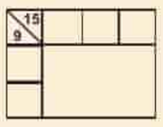
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

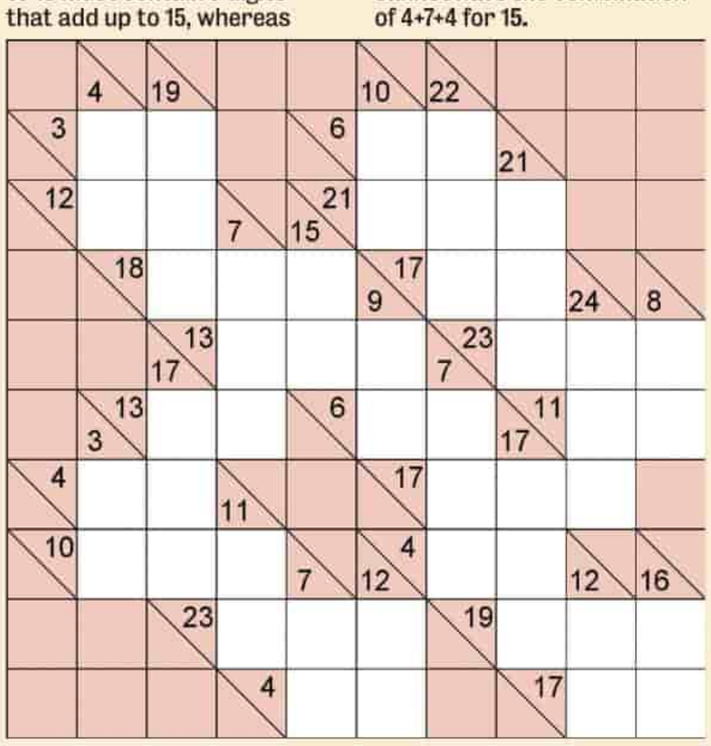
7 * 77 + 7 ÷ 7 – 7 = ?

Kakuro

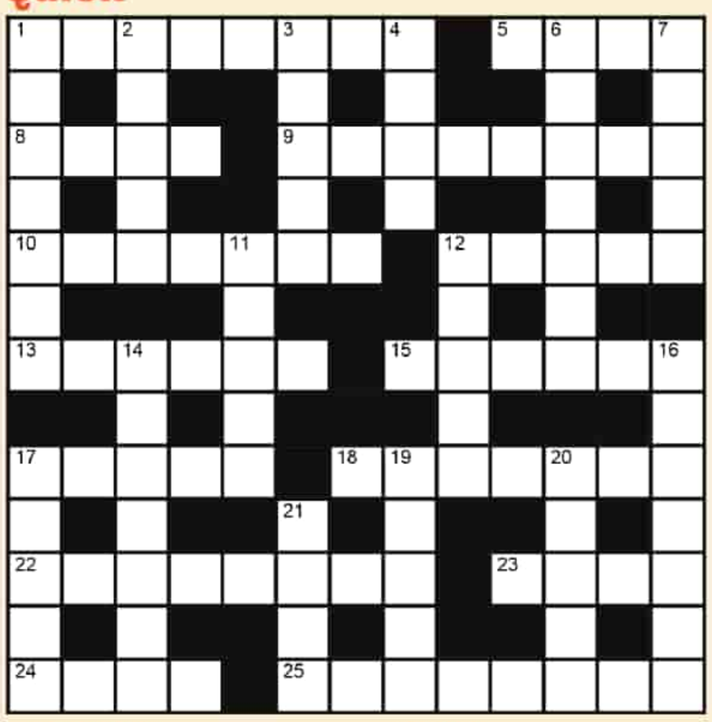
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sneering or sarcastic (8)
5 British jail (4)
8 Position in hierarchy? (4)
9 Muddies, beclouds or eclipses (8)
10 Stimulates or excites (7)
12 Strikes with the foot (5)
13 Keep an __ __ : act as a sentry, should we say ? (3,3)
15 Dining table crockery (6)
17 Speedy (5)
18 Unpaid overdue debts (7)
22 Business day endings (8)
23 Unaccompanied (4)
24 Regretted (4)
25 Grotesque architectural ornamentation (8)

DOWN

1 Turn up (7)
2 John, Paul, George and _____ (5)
3 Lasso feature (5)
4 Barrel (4)
6 Juicy fruit (7)
7 Rolls or catalogues (5)
11 Reliable or honest (5)
12 Gold mines 100 kms out of the city (5)
14 Detonate (7)
16 Normal contraction of the heart (7)
17 Happen again (5)
19 Stairway part (5)
20 Suffering or torture (5)
21 Hitch (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS D

IQE'B BKLP BSP ZMJJ ZU BSP SQVED, BKLP SNO ZU BSP BKNJ, BSPE UQM XKE JPB RQ ASPE UQM AKEB BQ.

Linemaro

Your dad a dentist? You have cute teeth

Mindchow

Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence or learning

Joke of the day

Family reunions are when relatives gather from all over to be reminded why they scattered in the first place

Loop

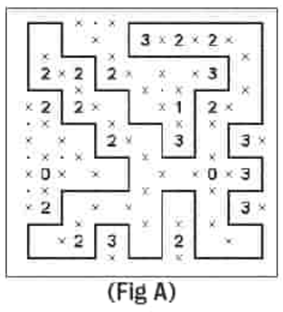
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

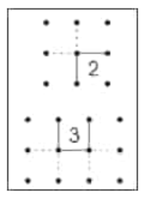
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

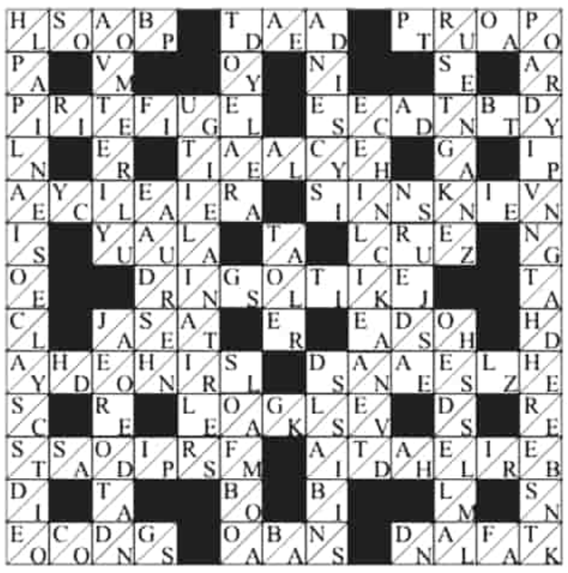


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

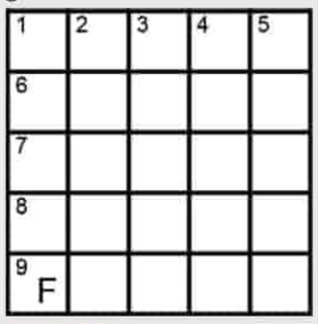
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Is esp; 6 Tonne; 7 Up Pre; 8 Me flu; 9 Al Fat

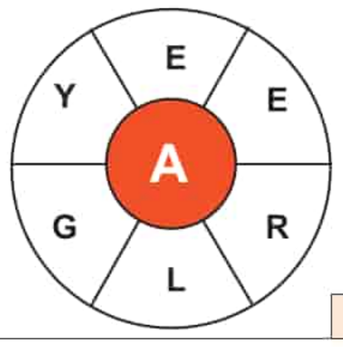
DOWN

1 Tuffs; 2 Apple; 3 Putin; 4 Ena me; 5 Loser

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; **17** Good; **19** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2		7		9	3	1	
	9		8				7	
	3							6
			2					7
	4	8				9	2	
3					1			
7							6	
	5				6		4	
	1	9	4		7		8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 5

5 5 7 8

Medium

= 32

3 5 8 9

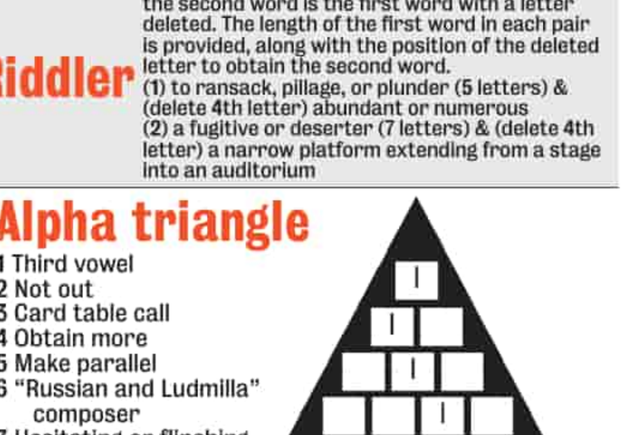
Hard

= 13

2 2 2 5

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Tie clip is moved. 3. Lapel is missing. 4. Hat is moved. 5. Dress is different. 6. Window is smaller.

Riddler

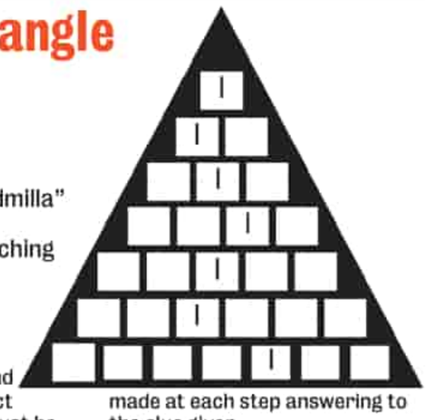
Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with a letter deleted. The length of the first word in each pair is provided, along with the position of the deleted letter to obtain the second word.

(1) to ransack, pillage, or plunder (5 letters) & (delete 4th letter) abundant or numerous

(2) a fugitive or deserter (7 letters) & (delete 4th letter) a narrow platform extending from a stage into an auditorium

Alpha triangle

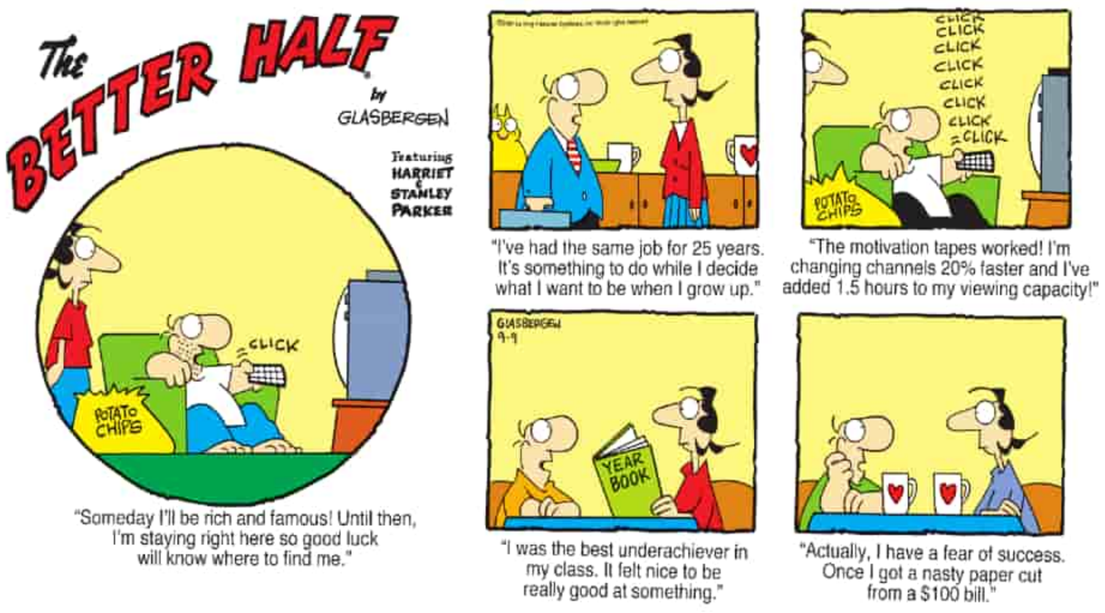
1 Third vowel
2 Not out
3 Card table call
4 Obtain more
5 Make parallel
6 "Russian and Ludmilla" composer
7 Hesitating or flinching



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
CLICK
POTATO CHIPS
"Someday I'll be rich and famous! Until then, I'm staying right here so good luck will know where to find me."
"I've had the same job for 25 years. It's something to do while I decide what I want to be when I grow up."
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
POTATO CHIPS
"The motivation tapes worked! I'm changing channels 20% faster and I've added 1.5 hours to my viewing capacity!"
GLASBERGEN 9-9
YEAR BOOK
"I was the best underachiever in my class. It felt nice to be really good at something."
"Actually, I have a fear of success. Once I got a nasty paper cut from a $100 bill."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WHAT?
ALREADY??
NOT YET!
COME ONNNN!
OKAY, FINE!
WHO CARES WHAT I THINK?
NEXT TO HEARING "JINGLE BELLS," THIS IS HOW I KNOW IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS.
DAD BETTER HOPE SANTA ISN'T LISTENING.

WE'VE FOUND OUR THIEF, YOUR MAJESTY.
I'M TELLING YOU, BARIN, I DIDN'T SMUGGLE ANY RADIUM-X!
I WANT TO BELIEVE YOU, FLASH.
BUT KNOWING YOUR HOME PLANET'S NEED FOR IT, HOW CAN I BE SURE WHERE YOUR LOYALTIES LIE?
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
FLASH IS ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING RADIUM-X!
KING BARIN, WE FOUND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR LOADING THE CARGO BAY ON FLASH'S SHIP.
MERCY, MY LIEGE! MY PEOPLE WERE TREATED HARSHLY UNDER EMPEROR MING'S TYRANNY.
FLASH LIBERATED US!
SO WHEN HE ASKED ME TO SMUGGLE THE RADIUM-X ON BOARD...
HOW COULD I REFUSE?
NO...
HE'S LYING!
I'M SORRY, FLASH.
GUARDS, TAKE HIM AWAY.
KEEFE 5-21 BILTER
ALREADY PUSHED TO THE BRINK AFTER WITNESSING DALE'S APPARENT DEMISE...
...FLASH FINALLY CRACKS!
NO!
THUD!
AFTER HIM!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
NEXT: THE FUGITIVE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The Moon's unfavorable position today may affect your health. Exercise caution in business dealings and investments, as financial losses are likely. Avoid spending on unproductive items and steer clear of controversies, which could damage your reputation and mental peace.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
With the Moon's blessings, you can expect positive developments in your career. Domestic life appears joyful. However, avoid unnecessary arguments, as overexcitement may test your patience. Real estate investments are favored today. Students will stay focused on their studies.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Although you may start the day feeling low, you'll return to your routine with renewed focus, particularly on your children's education. You may gain the upper hand over rivals. Investors should avoid major financial decisions. Job seekers may encounter promising opportunities.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may experience uneasiness due to negative energy. It's wise to avoid spending on non-essential items. Friends may not be supportive today, so rely on your judgment. Making independent decisions will help prevent disappointment.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Lethargy and workplace obstacles may slow you down. Avoid impulsive decisions in business or investment matters. Unnecessary expenses could strain family dynamics. Patience and careful planning will help you navigate the day.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Your dedication is likely to pay off today. A short business trip may be on the horizon. Support from subordinates will help bring your plans to life. Even rivals may acknowledge your efforts. Expect good news from siblings.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You'll gain better control over expenses today. Consider investing in business or real estate to improve long-term financial stability. While you'll remain calm and focused on domestic matters, your spouse may experience health issues or emotional discomfort.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Confidence and energy will fuel your success today. Strategic planning and efficient execution will yield positive results. However, review all documents before signing. Enthusiasm may prompt investment in a family business. Lovebirds should avoid minor arguments.

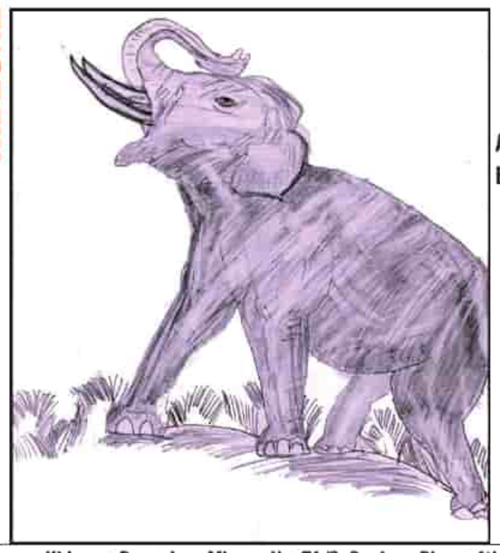
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Anxiety and restlessness may dominate your day, leading to unproductive distractions. Visiting a spiritual or religious place can provide relief and clarity. Wisdom from elders may help you regain focus and direction.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Social engagements today could strengthen your network and offer long-term benefits. Those in creative fields such as fashion, art, or entertainment may come up with innovative ideas. Students will likely perform well, and lovebirds can look forward to joyful moments.

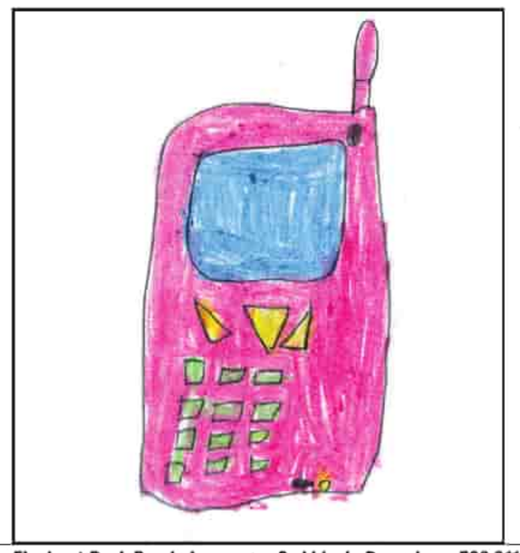
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Work demands may tire you out and reduce family time. However, you might establish useful international connections. Be cautious with financial investments. Recognition or promotion at work is possible for employees.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings stability and rewarding results. Business efforts may lead to gains, and your dedication is likely to be acknowledged. It's a good day to revive delayed projects. A peaceful spiritual journey is possible, along with charitable donations.

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru



Ayush, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
539+1-7=
540-7=
53

RIDDLER
1) rifle & rifle &
2) runaway &
runway

STRIKE OUT

H	O	O	P		T	A	D		P	R	O	P		
A	V		Y		I		E			A				
I	R	E	F	U	L		S	C	A	T	T	Y		
L		R		T	E	A	C	H		A		I		
E	C	L	A	I	R		S	I	S	K	I	N		
S		Y	U	L		A		C	U	E		G		
E		D	I	S	L	I	K	E				T		
L	J	E	T		E		E	D	O			H		
A	D	O	N	I	S		S	N	E	E	Z	E		
S	R		E	A	G	L	E		D			R		
S	A	D	I	S	M		A	D	H	E	R	E		
I		A		B		M				E		N		
E	O	N	S		A	B	S		D	A	F	T		

FAST FIVE

S	P	I	E	S
T	E	N	N	O
U	P	P	E	R
F	L	U	M	E
F	A	T	A	L

QUOTE UNCODE
Don't take the bull by the horns, take him by the tail, then you can let go when you want to.

QUICK

R	U	E	D		G	A	R	G	O	Y	L	E		
C	L	O	S	I	N	G	S		S	O	L	O		
E		L		S		I			G		T			
R	A	P	I	D		A	R	R	E	A	R	S		
	X		N				A				Y			
E	Y	E	O	U	T		P	L	A	T	E	S		
C			O		O			O				C		
A	R	O	U	S	E	S		K	I	C	K	S		
F		G		S		K		I		I		T		
R	A	N	K		O	B	S	C	U	R	E	S		
U		I		O		A		P				I		
S	A	R	D	O	N	I	C		G	A	O	L		

MENSA PUZZLE
5. Take pairs of numbers at opposite ends of the diagram. Their total is always 10.

BULL'S EYE
agree, argyle, eager, EAGERLY, eagle, earl, early, gale, gayer, gear, glare, lager, large, layer, rage, real, regal, relay, year

SUDOKU

6	1	9	4	2	7	5	8	3
2	5	3	1	8	6	7	4	9
7	8	4	3	9	5	1	6	2
3	7	2	9	4	1	6	5	8
5	4	8	6	7	3	9	2	1
9	6	1	2	5	8	4	3	7
4	3	7	5	1	2	8	9	6
1	9	6	8	3	4	2	7	5
8	2	5	7	6	9	3	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Gin, Gain, Align, Glinka, Balking.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 - 5 + 8 - 5 = 5
Medium
3 x 5 + 9 + 8 = 32
Hard
2 + 2 x 2 + 5 = 13

LOOP

KAKURO

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ಪೂರ್ವಿಕಾ

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